

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Their abuse of media access to public airwaves is flagrant. It is undemocratic to use their numerous stations and venues for the promotion of a specific candidate and set of beliefs, especially because they are imposing this broadcast and the other assorted stipulations on their stations and affiliates.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. On behalf of myself and numerous other viewers, please regulate this company more heavily, it is beneficial to have perspectives presented and represented to the community through television, it is not beneficial to have any position favored and presented as reality to the point that Sinclair has done. This is directly abusing the power and responsibility of free press and attempting to manipulate its audience. Thank you very much.